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REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is in reply to the Office Action dated May 4, 2007. In this response, Applicants have withdrawn claims 15, 16, and 18, amended claims 1-14, and added new claims 19-23. New claims 19 and 20 are drawn to limitations formerly contained in claim 1. New claims 21-23 result from claims formerly dependent on both the limitations from original claim 1 that are now included in claims 19 and 20, necessitating two claims drawn to the two limitations as they formerly were in claims 8-10. No new matter is presented. Claims 1-14, 17, and 19-23 are pending. Applicants submit that the pending claims are supported by the specification.

For the reasons given below, Applicants submit that the amended and newly presented claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Restriction Requirement

Applicants previously received a restriction requirement between claims 1 – 14 and 17 (Group I) and claims 15-16 and 18 (Group II). Applicants elected Group I, claims 1 – 14 and 17, with traverse. In the subject Office Action, the restriction was made final. Accordingly, claims 15-16 and 18 are withdrawn.

Species Election

The Examiner has now required the election of species drawn to either:

Embodiment I: plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition;

Embodiment II: reactive sputtering.

Applicants elect Embodiment I, plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition, without traverse, for prosecution on the merits. At least the following claims are readable on the elected species: claims 1-6, 8-14, 17, and 19. Applicants submit that claims 1-3, 6, 13-14, and 17 are generic

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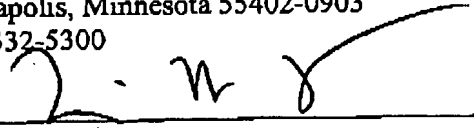
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The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below, if the Examiner believes that doing so will expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 4 June 2007


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